

Application Serial No. 09/933,245
Date March 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated February 24, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner stated "The relation between the diameters of the spring and the pocket in claims 6 and 12 were not disclosed in the originally filed application. This is a new matter rejection". Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to Paragraph 18, lines 10-11 of the originally filed application where the application states, "The outer diameter of the spring 68 is at least 50% of the diameter of the pocket, making it easier to handle". Applicants submit that the originally filed application provides proper support for dependent claims 6 and 12 and that they do not constitute new matter.

Claims 1,2,5,7, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zabeck et al. (US Patent Number 5,503,366).

Claim 1 has been cancelled and the limitations of cancelled claim 1 have been added to claim 2. The examiner stated in his Point #4 that Zabeck included a "dome-shaped stop-cushion (22)...". Applicants respectfully point out that the stop buffer of Zabeck et al. is not dome-shaped. Zabeck et al. discloses a flat stop buffer in the drawings (Figs 1 & 2, no. 24) and there is no mention of the stop buffer being dome-shaped in the specification (Col 3, lines 26-34 and Col 4, lines 38-41). It would have been understandable for the Examiner to confuse the truncated-cone-shaped projection 29 of Zabeck for the applicant's stop cushion, but this is not the case as can be seen from a close examination of Fig 2 and the specification (Col 4, lines 48-53). The projection 29 of Zabeck does not come into contact with the plunger stop, but merely serves to keep the spring in position. The instant application clearly points out the benefits of a dome-shaped stop cushion in Paragraph 5, lines 1-4 and Paragraph 20 lines 1-8. Currently amended claim 2 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend on currently amended claim 2.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend on currently amended claim 2.

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Claim 13 has been amended to depend on currently amended claim 2.

Claims 8 was previously allowed, but has been amended to correct a grammatical error.

Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been amended to include all of the limitations of its original base claim, claim 1, and should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to include all of the limitations of its original base claim, claim 1, and should now be in condition for allowance.

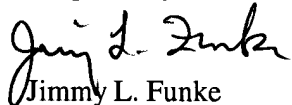
Claim 10 depends on the currently amended claim 4, and should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 depends on claim 10 and should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 depends on claim 11 and should now be in condition for allowance.

This Amendment should place this case in condition for passing to issue. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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